

Islamic Academy of Coventry

Sīrah of Muḥammad ﷺ

Part 15

The Captives of Badr

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Sirah of Muḥammad ﷺ
Part 15 – The Captives of Badr
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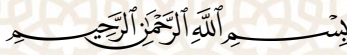
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Introduction

Abū Sufyān had left Shām with a caravan heading towards Makkah. Rasūlullāh ﷺ found out about this and left with a group of over three hundred Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ to intercept it.

The Muslim contingent had very limited supplies. There were only two horses and seventy camels in the whole army. The army including Rasūlullāh ﷺ would take turns to ride the camels and in this way, they travelled south towards Badr.

Meanwhile, Abū Sufyān found out about Rasūlullāh ﷺ plans so he sent ḌamḌam Ghifāri to Makkah to inform the Quraysh to come and protect their caravan.

The Quraysh set out, with one thousand men, armed to the hilt, fully prepared to battle the Muslims. Abū Sufyān had been inquiring about the Muslims and realised they were close after inspecting the camel droppings of two Muslims who were scouting ahead.

Abū Sufyān changed the direction of the caravan towards the coastal route and managed to evade the Muslim army. He informed the Quraysh that they had managed to escape, and the

caravan was no longer under threat, but the Quraysh decided to still travel to Badr and confront the Muslims.

The Muslims and the Quraysh both reached Badr. The Muslim army realised that the caravan had maybe evaded them and instead, they were now faced with a well-prepared army. Rasūlullāh ﷺ spoke to the Companions and they all agreed to follow him wherever he went. They would not turn back but confront this threat head on.

The Muslim army had arrived from the north and the Qurayshi army from the south. Brother faced brother, father faced son, and cousins faced each other. The outcome of this battle would be decisive for the religion of Allāh ﷻ.

The battleground was soft underfoot and Allāh ﷻ sent down the rain to make it firm for the Muslim army.

The Quraysh came forward and challenged the Muslims to duels. Initially, three of the Anṣār went forward but the Quraysh wanted to fight their own people from the Muhājirūn. ‘Alī, Ḥamzah and ‘Ubaydah ibn al-Ḥārith رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ went forward.

The duels commenced. ‘Utbah, Shaybah and Walīd representing the Quraysh were all defeated, however ‘Ubaydah ibn al-Ḥārith رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ succumbed to the wounds suffered in this duel.

The main battle began and Allāh ﷻ sent the Angels to help the Muslims. The Companions of Rasūlullāh ﷺ showed great bravery and with the help of Allāh ﷻ overcame the Qurayshi army.

Fourteen Companions of Rasūlullāh ﷺ were martyred in the battle. Seventy of the Quraysh fell on this day and a further seventy were taken as captives by the Muslims.

Among the Qurayshi leaders who did not leave the battlefield that day were Umayyah ibn Khalaf and the greatest enemy of Islām, Abū Jahl. Even in his final moments, he showed great pride and arrogance. He had been mortally wounded by two of the sons of ‘Afrā’ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا, Mu‘ādh and Mu‘awwidh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا. Later on ‘Abdullāh ibn Mas‘ūd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ went in search of him in the battlefield upon the command of Rasūlullāh ﷺ and found Abū Jahl was still alive. Very soon after, Abū Jahl would breath his last.

The first battle in the advent of Islām had come to an end with a complete victory for the Muslims and a demoralising defeat for the Quraysh. The Muslims had overcome overwhelming odds against a well-equipped foe with the help of Allāh ﷻ and dealt a devastating blow to the Quraysh. The Quraysh headed back to Makkah without many of those who had set out on the journey.

The Well

Whenever the Rasūlullāh ﷺ was victorious after a battle, he would spend three nights at that place. As per his habit, when the third day came, Rasūlullāh ﷺ ordered that his she-camel be saddled. He left and the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ followed him.

The Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ thought that Rasūlullāh ﷺ must have left due to some important reason. They proceeded until Rasūlullāh ﷺ stopped by the well where the polytheists of the Quraysh had been buried. Rasūlullāh ﷺ then addressed the fallen leaders, name by name.



"يَا فُلَانُ بْنُ فُلَانٍ وَيَا فُلَانُ بْنُ فُلَانٍ أَيَسْرُكُمُ أَنْتَكُمُ أَطَعْتُمُ
اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَإِنَّا قَدْ وَجَدْنَا مَا وَعَدَنَا رَبُّنَا حَقًّا فَهَلْ وَجَدْتُمْ مَا
وَعَدَ رَبُّكُمْ حَقًّا"¹

"O so-and-so, son of so-and-so and O so-and-so, son of so-and so!
Would it have pleased you if you had obeyed Allāh and His
Messenger? We have found true what our Lord promised us.
Have you too found true what your Lord promised you? "



¹ Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3976

The Sharing of the Spoils

Rasūlullāh ﷺ ordered that the spoils which had been collected in the battle be gathered. The Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ disagreed on how the spoils should be distributed.

The Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ who had collected the spoils made a claim to it. The Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ who had fought in the battle and laid chase to the Quraysh also claimed it saying had it not been for them, they would not have got any spoils. This Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ who had been guarding Rasūlullāh ﷺ also laid claim to it. They said that they had wanted to fight but were guarding Rasūlullāh ﷺ in case the enemy would attack him.

Allāh سُبحانه وتعالى sent down the following Revelation regarding this:

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَنْفَالِ قُلِ الْأَنْفَالُ لِلَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ
فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا ذَاتَ بَيْنِكُمْ
وَاطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ²

“They ask you about the spoils. Say, “The spoils are for Allāh and the Messenger.” So, fear Allāh, and set your relations right, and obey Allāh and His Messenger, if you are believers. (1)”

² Sūrah al-Anfāl verse 1

News of the Victory comes to Madīnah

Rasūlullāh ﷺ sent a Messenger to Madīnah to inform them of the good news of the Muslim victory. For the people towards the upper part he sent ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and towards the lower part he sent Zayd ibn al-Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ.

Usāmah ibn Zayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ mentions that the good news reached the Muslims at the same time they were burying the daughter of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, Ruqayyah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. Ruqayyah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا had been married to ‘Uthmān رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and he had been given permission by Rasūlullāh ﷺ to stay in Madīnah and look after his wife, so he was not present in Badr.

Even though ‘Uthmān رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had not been present at the actual battle, he is still counted as one of the people of Badr, as Rasūlullāh ﷺ had ordered him to remain behind.

Usāmah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ says that he saw Zayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was being crowded by the people and Zayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was standing on the Muṣallāh telling people the names of the leaders of the Quraysh who had fallen, like ‘Utbah ibn Rabī‘ah, Shaybah ibn Rabī‘ah and Abū Jahl etc.

Usāmah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ asked his father if the news was true and Zaid رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ took an oath of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and confirmed that it was.

Rasūlullāh makes his way to Madīnah

After Rasūlullāh ﷺ had sent ‘Abdullāh ibn Rawāḥah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and Zayd ibn al-Ḥārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ to Madīnah, he set off with the rest of the army. The group of captives was also with him including ‘Uqbah ibn Abū Mu‘ayṭ and al-Naḍr ibn al-Ḥārith. The spoils of war had been put under the supervision of ‘Abdullāh ibn Ka‘ab Anṣārī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ.

When Rasūlullāh ﷺ reached al-Ṣafrā’ he divided the spoils equally between the Muslims ensuring all the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ were satisfied.

When they reached Maqām Rawḥā, they met some Muslims who congratulated them on their victory. If you go to al-Rawḥā today, there is a Masjid which shows where Rasūlullāh ﷺ was supposed to have prayed.



The Other Shares

There were also eight other people who were given a share of the spoils but were not present in the battle as Rasūlullāh ﷺ had either given them permission or commanded them to remain behind in Madīnah.

1. ‘Uthmān ibn ‘Affān رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - he had remained behind to look after his wife, Ruqayyah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا, the daughter of Rasūlullāh ﷺ. She was ill and passed away before Rasūlullāh ﷺ returned from Badr.
2. Ṭalḥah ibn ‘Ubaydullāh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ &
3. Sa‘īd ibn Zayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - these two Companions had been sent to find out information about the caravan of Abū Sufyān
4. Abū Lubābah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - he had been sent back to Madīnah to oversee matters there in the absence of Rasūlullāh ﷺ.
5. ‘Āṣim ibn ‘Adiy رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - he had been left in ‘Aliya
6. Ḥārith ibn Ḥāṭib رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - he had been told to return back to the Banū ‘Amr ibn ‘Awf for some reason
7. Ḥārith ibn Šama رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ
8. Khawāt ibn Jubayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

The Captives arrive in Madīnah

Rasūlullāh ﷺ arrived in Madīnah one day before the captives. When the captives arrived, Rasūlullāh ﷺ shared them out among the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ. The captives had to be looked after and Rasūlullāh ﷺ told the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ to be good to them and treat them kindly.

استوصوا بالأسارى خيرا

Abū ‘Azīz ibn ‘Umayr was one of the captives, he was the brother of Muṣ‘ab ibn ‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. When he was being bound by one of the Anṣār, Muṣ‘ab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ passed by and told the Anṣārī to bind him fast, for his mother was a wealthy woman and maybe she would redeem him from him.

Abū ‘Azīz ibn ‘Umayr mentions that whichever Anṣārī house he was at, in the morning and evening, whatever little food they cooked, they would give it to him and eat dates themselves. He used to get embarrassed and insisted that they eat the food, but they did not listen and said that Rasūlullāh ﷺ had given them orders to be good to the captives.



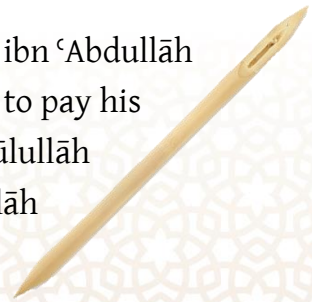
What to do with the Captives?

A few days after reaching Madīnah, Rasūlullāh ﷺ called the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ to decide what to do with the captives. ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said that their affair should be settled once and for all, Rasūlullāh ﷺ did not prefer this opinion.

Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ gave his opinion, that they should be released upon payment of a ransom. He said that it could be that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى guides them and then these people will later become our helpers against the disbelievers. Rasūlullāh ﷺ preferred this opinion.

The ransom was set between 1,000 and 4,000 dirhams depending on the status of the person. Those captives who were poor and didn’t have the means to pay were set free and those captives who knew how to write, they were given the condition that they teach ten children, and then they could also be freed. Zayd ibn Thābit رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ learnt how to write in this manner.

Among the captives was Abū ‘Uzza - ‘Amr ibn ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Uthmān. He did not have the means to pay his ransom, so he presented himself to Rasūlullāh ﷺ and asked for mercy. Rasūlullāh ﷺ ordered that he be freed



without having to pay the ransom. There was one condition attached to his freedom which was to not aid anyone against the Muslims. Abū ‘Uzza accepted these terms and was freed. He said some poetry in praise of Rasūlullāh ﷺ and left, however he did not embrace Islām. On the day of the Uḥud he died in the state of disbelief.

In the same manner, Muṭṭalib ibn Ḥanṭab and Ṣayfī ibn Abū Rifā‘ah were also freed without having to pay a ransom.



News reaches Makkah

The first person to reach Makkah with news of the Qurayshi defeat was al-Jaysumān ibn ‘Abdullāh al-Khuzā‘ī. The people asked him to tell them news about the battle. He said “‘Utbah ibn Rabī‘ah, Shaybah ibn Rabī‘ah, Abū al-Ḥakm ibn Hishām (Abū Jahl), Umayyah ibn Khalaf, Zama‘ah ibn al-Aswad, Nubay and Munabbah, the sons of al-Ḥajjāj, and Abū al-Bakhtarī ibn Hishām have all been killed”.

Ṣafwān ibn Umayyah at that time was sitting in the Ḥaṭīm. He said I cannot understand this, maybe this person has gone mad. In order to confirm whether al-Jaysumān had not gone mad, he told the people to ask him, where is Ṣafwān. When they asked al-Jaysumān he said, “This is Ṣafwān ibn Umayyah who is sitting in the Ḥaṭīm and I have seen his father and brother get killed with my own eyes”.



The Household of ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

Abū Rāfi‘ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ the freed slave of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ mentions that he used to be a slave of ‘Abbās ibn Abd al-Muṭṭalib رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and Islām had entered into their house. He had embraced Islām as well as ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and his wife Umm al-Faḍl رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had kept his faith hidden in case the people would dislike him if they found out. ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ also had a lot of his wealth spread out amongst the people.

Abū Lahab, the brother of ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and uncle of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ had not taken part in the battle of Badr. He had sent al-‘Āṣ ibn Hishām ibn al-Mughayrah in his place. When news of the Qurayshi defeat came to Makkah, Allāh سُبحانهُ وتعالى humiliated Abū Lahab.

Abū Rāfi‘ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ mentions that he was a weak man and was sat sharpening the arrows he used to make in the tent of Zam Zam.

Umm al-Faḍl رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was also sat there with him. Abū

Lahab came and sat at the end of the tent with his

back towards him. The people saw Abū Sufyān

ibn al-Ḥārith (he was Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

uncles’ son - ibn Hishām mentions his

name was

al-

Mughayrah) arriving.



Abū Lahab called him and made him sit by him. He then asked him about what happened in Badr. Abū Sufyān ibn al-Ḥārith informed him what had happened there and said they had met white men on piebald horses between the heavens and the earth. They did not spare anyone, and no one could stand against them. After hearing this, Abū Rāfi‘ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ lifted the rope of the tent and said “those by Allāh were Angels”.

Upon hearing this, Abū Lahab got angry and struck Abū Rāfi‘ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ on the face severely. An altercation followed in which Abū Lahab overpowered Abū Rāfi‘ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and continued to hit him until Umm al-Faḍl رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا took one of the supports of the tent and struck Abū Lahab on his head causing him a nasty wound. She then told Abū Lahab that he was only doing this because his master (‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ) was not present. Abū Lahab then turned and left humiliated.



Abū Lahab

Not even a week passed by after this incident when Abū Lahab developed pustules (bulging patches of skin full of pus) from which he died.

After he died, his body was left where it was as no one wanted to go near it, not even his own children. According to some reports, days later his sons ordered a pit to be dug and his corpse was pushed into it with sticks.

Other reports mention that a man came to his sons, telling them that it was disgraceful leaving their fathers body as it was. They replied that they were scared of the ulcers (in case they catch them) so the man offered to go with them. They did not bathe the body but just threw water over it from a distance.

The body was then taken to the high ground above Makkah and put against a wall. The corpse was then covered with stones. And this was the end of the uncle of Rasūlullāh ﷺ who was also one of his greatest enemies.



Sūrah Lahab

تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ. وَتَبَّ (١) مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ
 (٢) سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ (٣) وَأَمْرَأَتُهُ وَخَمَالَةَ الْخَطَبِ
 (٤) فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ (٥)³

“Perish the two hands of Abū Lahab and perish he! (1) Neither his wealth benefited him, nor what he earned. (2) He will soon enter a Fire, full of flames, (3) And his wife as well, the wicked carrier of firewood. (4) Around her neck, there is (a collar of iron, like) a well-twisted rope. (5)”

The two things which Abū Lahab used to boast about, were his wealth and his earnings. One meaning of earnings could be your children. When the time came, both of these were of no use to him. Allāh سُبحانه وتعالىٰ had already brought down the Revelation, that Abū Lahab and his wife would not accept Islām. That his wealth and earnings would not avail him and again this is proof that the Qur’ān only speaks the truth. How many people at that time embraced Islām? Many people who were open enemies in the beginning became firm believers later on, but this couple were named by Allāh سُبحانه وتعالىٰ in his Revelation that they would not embrace, and this was proven true.

³ Sūrah Lahab

The Ransoming of the Captives

The devastating news of the defeat reached the people in Makkah and they started to mourn. The mourning lasted for a whole month.

An announcement was then made that people should no longer mourn because if news of this reaches Rasūlullāh ﷺ and his Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ, it will make them very happy. Also, no one is to ransom the captives in case Rasūlullāh ﷺ increases the ransom.

Even though this announcement was made, Muṭṭalib ibn Abū Wadā‘ah took 4,000 dirhams and left for Madīnah to free his father Abū Wadā‘ah who was one of the captives.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ had mentioned that Abū Wadā‘ah had a son in Makkah who was not only rich but also very shrewd and he would come to free his father. As per Rasūlullāh ﷺ words, Muṭṭalib sneaked out of Makkah at night- time. Upon reaching Madīnah, he paid the ransom for his father Abū Wadā‘ah, got him released and came back to Makkah.

After this, other people started to send the ransoms for the other captives to also get them released.



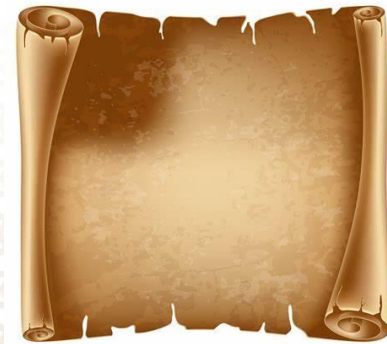
Suhayl ibn ‘Amr

From amongst the captives was Suhayl ibn ‘Amr. He was a man of great intelligence and eloquence who used to satirize Rasūlullāh ﷺ in gatherings.

‘Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ asked Rasūlullāh ﷺ if he could remove two of Suhayl's front teeth to make sure that he could never speak out against Rasūlullāh ﷺ ever again. Rasūlullāh ﷺ did not give him permission to do so. He also said that it could be that Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى shows us some benefit from him.

It just so happened that Suhayl ibn ‘Amr was involved in the treaty of Ḥdaybiyyah from the Qurayshi side. He then came into the fold of Islām after the conquest of Makkah.

Mikraz ibn Ḥafṣ ibn al-Akhyaf had come from Makkah to settle the ransom of Suhayl ibn ‘Amr. When the terms were agreed with the Muslims, Mikraz requested that he be kept in place of Suhayl so he could arrange the ransom money. The Muslims agreed to this and Suhayl went back to Makkah.



‘Amr ibn Abū Sufyān

Another captive was ‘Amr, the son of the Qurayshi leader Abū Sufyān. When Abū Sufyān was told to ransom his son, he said that it could be that his person is killed, and he also has to give a ransom. One of his sons, Ḥaṇṣalah had already been killed and then he has to also pay a ransom for ‘Amr.

Abū Sufyān refused to pay the ransom and said that they could hold him captive for as long as they want.

Whilst ‘Amr ibn Abū Sufyān was imprisoned in Madīnah, Sa‘ad ibn an-Nu‘mān رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ left Madinah to go to Makkah to perform ‘Umrah. He had no fear of anything happening to him and did not realise that he would be imprisoned in Makkah.

The Quraysh would always treat everyone who had come for Ḥajj or ‘Umrah in a good manner, however Abū Sufyān took Sa‘ad ibn an-Nu‘mān رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ as a prisoner.



The Banū ‘Amr ibn Auf came to Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and asked if he could release ‘Amr ibn Abū Sufyān so they could exchange him for Sa‘ad رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ gave permission for ‘Amr to be freed. ‘Amr then went to Makkah and Sa‘ad رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was allowed to leave.

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ ‘Abbās

One of the other captives was the uncle of Rasūlullāh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ ‘Abbās. He had been taken captive by Ka‘ab ibn ‘Amr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was a strong man of large build whilst Ka‘ab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was of short height and not as strong. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ asked him, how did you manage to capture رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ ‘Abbās?

Ka‘ab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said that a man came who helped me who I had never seen before, and I have not seen again since. He described him to Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ who informed him that a noble angel had aided him.

‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ found being a captive quite severe on him and Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ listened to his displeasure. When the Anṣār found out, they opened his chains and made a request to Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ that if he gives permission, they will leave the ransom for رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ ‘Abbās.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied:

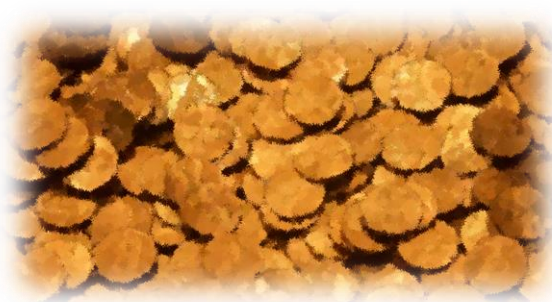
والله لا تذر منه درهما

“By Allāh, do not even leave one dirham from him”

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ told رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ ‘Abbās to ransom himself and his two nephews, ‘Aqil ibn Abū Ṭālib and Naufal ibn al-Ḥārith. Both

were also the paternal cousins of Rasūlullāh ﷺ. He also told him to ransom his ally, ‘Utba ibn ‘Amr. The reason for this was that ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was a wealthy man.

‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ told Rasūlullāh ﷺ that he was a Muslim and he had been forced to go to the battle. Rasūlullāh ﷺ replied that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى knows best about his Islām and if what he said is true, then he will be rewarded accordingly by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. On face value, he had come up against the Muslims, so he would have to pay the ransom to be freed.



Rasūlullāh ﷺ had taken twenty Uqiyyah (old unit of measure equaling forty dirhams) of gold off ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ so he asked if these could be used as credit for his ransom. Rasūlullāh ﷺ said it could not be used. ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ then expressed his inability to pay.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ said to him, ‘is that so, what about the wealth you and your wife Umm al- Faḍl buried?’ In another narration, the wealth had been left with Umm al-Faḍl in Makkah.

As soon as he heard this, ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was lost for words, he then said, ‘indeed I bear witness that you are definitely the Messenger

of Allāh, apart from me and Umm al-Faḍl, no one had knowledge of this wealth’.

The ransom for ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ was set to one hundred Uqiyyah and ‘Aqīl ibn Abū Ṭālib, eighty Uqiyyah. One Uqiyyah is forty dirhams, so that was four thousand & three thousand, two hundred dirhams, respectively.

The highest ransom from all of the captives was set for ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said, ‘have you set it high because of my kinship to you’, logic would say, because he was Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ uncle, his ransom should be less.

Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى then revealed the following verse:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِمَنْ فِي أَيْدِيكُمْ مِنَ الْأَسْرَىٰ إِن يَعْلَمِ اللَّهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ خَيْرًا يُؤْتِكُمْ خَيْرًا مِّمَّا أُخِذَ مِنْكُمْ وَيَغْفِرَ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٧٠﴾

“O Prophet, say to the prisoners in your hands, “If Allāh knows any goodness in your hearts, He will give you something better than what has been taken from you, and will forgive you. Allāh is Most-Forgiving, Very-Merciful.” (70)

After this ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ used to say, ‘if only even more ransom money was taken from me. Whatever, Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى took off me in terms of ransom, he has given me more and better. In return for the one hundred Uqiyyah, he has given me one hundred slaves, each of which is a trader. Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has fulfilled this promise in this world. The second promise of forgiveness, I am hopeful of it.’

الْعَبَّاسُ

أَبْنُ عَبْدِ الْمُطَّلِبِ

Abū al-‘Āṣ ibn al-‘Āṣ ibn Rabī‘

Abū al-‘Āṣ ibn al-‘Āṣ ibn Rabī‘ was the son in law of Rasūlullāh ﷺ and he was also captured during the battle. He was married to Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا, the eldest daughter of Rasūlullāh ﷺ and Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا.

Abū al-‘Āṣ was also the son of the sister of Khadija رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا, so he was her nephew and she used to treat him like her own son. Before the advent of Islām, she had told Rasūlullāh ﷺ herself to get Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا married to him. Abū al-‘Āṣ was a wealthy and trustworthy merchant.

After Prophethood, Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا and all of her daughters embraced Islām but Abū al-‘Āṣ did not. The Quraysh tried to pressurize Abū al-‘Āṣ into divorcing Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا in the same way Abū Lahab’s two sons had divorced the two daughters of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, Umme Kulthūm رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا and Ruqayyah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. They said to him, we will get you married to whomever you want, however, he refused to do so and clearly said that he did not desire any woman in the world in comparison to Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا.

When the Qurayshi army left for Badr, Abū al-‘Āṣ also left with them. He was captured by the Muslims during the battle and as per the other captives, he was to be released upon payment of a ransom.

As part of the ransom for her husband, Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا sent a necklace which had been given to her on her wedding by her mother, Khadījah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا along with some money.

When Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ saw the necklace, he mentioned to the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ, that if you think it is correct, then return the necklace and also release the prisoner.

The necklace was returned and Abū al-ʿĀṣ was also released, however, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ made him promise that when he returns to Makkah, he will send Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا to Madīnah.



Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا

Upon reaching Makkah, Abū al-ʿĀṣ kept to his promise and sent Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا with his brother Kinānah ibn al-Rabīʿ. Kinānah made Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا sit in a howdah (a carriage put on top of a camel), took his bow in hand, and left in broad daylight.

The Quraysh found it very hard to digest that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ daughter has left Makkah in front of everyone so Abū Sufyān and some others set off in pursuit. They reached the area called Dhū Ṭuwā outside of Makkah where they managed to intercept Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا and Kinānah.

Habbār ibn al-Aswad was the first to come across them. He stopped the camel on which Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was travelling and frightened her with his lance. At the time Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was pregnant, and she got so scared that she lost her baby.

Kinānah took his bow in his hand and said that whoever comes near this camel, I will cover his body with arrows. The Quraysh then fell back.

Abū Sufyān and some of the other Quraysh told Kinānah to stand down so they can discuss matters with him. They said that we have no need to stop the daughter of Muḥammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ but by going like this in front of everyone, this is a matter of disgrace for us. It would be best if you return now to Makkah so people can

say we brought her back. Later on you can leave secretly at night for Madīnah.

Kinānah accepted this offer and returned back to Makkah with Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. After 2 or 3 nights, they left secretly at night and headed for Madīnah.



Rasūlullāh ﷺ awaits his daughter.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ had sent Zayd ibn al-Hārithah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and another Anṣārī to wait for Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا in the valley of Yajāj. They had been given instructions to wait there until she comes and then bring her back to Madīnah.

They reached the valley and met Kinānah ibn Rab'ī. He left Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا with them and went back to Makkah. She reached the blessed city of Madīnah one month after the battle of Badr.

The eldest child of Rasūlullāh ﷺ was now finally reunited with her father. The daughter of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا started to live with her father and her husband stayed in Makkah.



The Caravan of Abū al-‘Āṣ

A few years later, before the conquest of Makkah, Abū al-‘Āṣ left for Shām on a trade trip. As other people from the Quraysh trusted him, they also sent their trade goods with him.



On the way back from Shām, he was met by a group of Muslims who confiscated all of his goods and wealth. Abū al-‘Āṣ managed to escape and then sneaked into Madīnah. He arrived at the house of Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا and asked for protection.

When Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ came to read Fajr Ṣalāh, Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا called out from the ladies' quarters and said that she has given Abū al-‘Āṣ protection.

When Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ finished his Ṣalāh, he turned to the people and asked if they had heard what he had heard. The people said yes. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'I swear by the one in whose hand my life is in, I had no knowledge of anything, until I heard what you all just heard'. He then told them that any Muslims, no matter what status they have are able to give protection.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ then went to see his daughter Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. He told her to look after him but told her not to have relations with him as this would not be permissible. She was a Muslim and he was still a non-believer.

The Returning of the Booty

Rasūlullāh ﷺ asked the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ who had confiscated his goods from him, if they could return them. He told the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ that they knew the relationship between Abū al-ʿĀṣ and his family and if they thought it well, to return his goods. Otherwise, it was a gift from Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى which he had given to them and they were rightful (owners) of it.

As soon as the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ heard this request from Rasūlullāh ﷺ, they brought back all of his wealth. One person would bring a bucket, another would bring a rope, one would bring a jug and another a piece of skin. One by one, all of his wealth was returned to him.



Abū al-ʿĀṣ took all of the wealth and returned to Makkah. He returned all the wealth back to the owners. Any money which they had given him was also returned. Once all of the wealth had been given back, he said:

يا معشر قريش هل بقي ل احد منكم عندى مال ياخذه
 قالوا لا فجزاك الله خيرا فقد وجدناك وفيا كريما
 قال فانا اشهد ان لا اله الا الله وان محمدا عبده ورسوله
 والله ما منعنى من الاسلام عنده الا تخوف ان اكل اموالكم
 فلما اداها الله اليكم و فرغت منها اسلمت

“O people of Quraysh, is there any of your wealth that I have not returned?” They said “no, may Allāh reward you, we have found you as one who fulfils his promises and noble”.

He then said, “I bear witness that there is no god but Allāh and indeed Muhammad ﷺ is his slave and Messenger. By Allāh, nothing stopped me from Islām except the people would think I had embraced Islām to take your wealth. When Allāh ﷻ returned your wealth to you and I have fulfilled my responsibility, then I embraced Islām”.

Abū al-‘Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ then went to Madīnah and Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ gave his daughter Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا back to him as his wife.

There are different opinions as to whether they had to perform Nikah again or not. According to the scholars from the Ḥanafī school of thought, a new Nikāh took place between them, otherwise Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would not have told Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا that she was not permissible for him when Abū al-‘Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ came to her house seeking refuge.



‘Umayr ibn Wahb

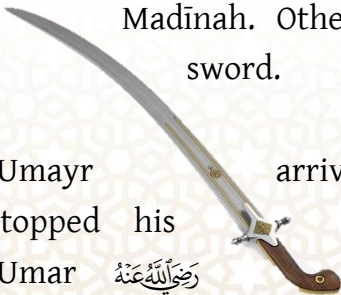
Wahb ibn ‘Umayr was the son of ‘Umayr ibn Wahb, a staunch enemy of Islām. ‘Umayr had caused a lot of problems for Rasūlullāh ﷺ and his Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ when they used to live in Makkah. Wahb had been captured in the battle of Badr.

One day ‘Umayr ibn Wahb and Ṣafwān ibn Umayyah were sitting in the Ḥaṭīm when Ṣafwān started remembering those people who had fallen in the battle of Badr saying that life had no enjoyment anymore. ‘Umayr agreed with him and said If I did not have the responsibility of my children and debt then I would go now and put an end to Muḥammad ﷺ.

Upon hearing this, Ṣafwān got happy and said, I will take on the responsibility of your children and your debt. This matter was kept secret between them.

According to some reports, ‘Umayr called for his sword and then sharpened it. He then smeared poison over it and proceeded to Madīnah. Other reports say that Ṣafwān gave him the sword.

‘Umayr arrived in Madīnah to carry out his plan and stopped his camel outside the door of Masjid Nabwī. ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ caught sight of him and immediately



realised that his intentions were not good. ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ caught hold of him and brought him in front of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ told ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ to let him go and asked ‘Umayr what he wanted. ‘Umayr said that he had come to get his captive freed. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ then told him to tell the truth, is this really the reason he has come. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ then asked him what did he and Ṣafwān agree when they were sat in the Ḥaṭīm.

‘Umayr got worried and asked Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, what did they agree? Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ told him that he had taken responsibility for putting an end to him on the condition that Ṣafwān takes care of his debt and children.

‘Umayr then said ‘I bear witness that indeed you are the Messenger of Allāh, apart from myself and Ṣafwān, no one had knowledge of this incident. Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى informed you of this, hence I have brought faith upon Allāh and his Messenger’.

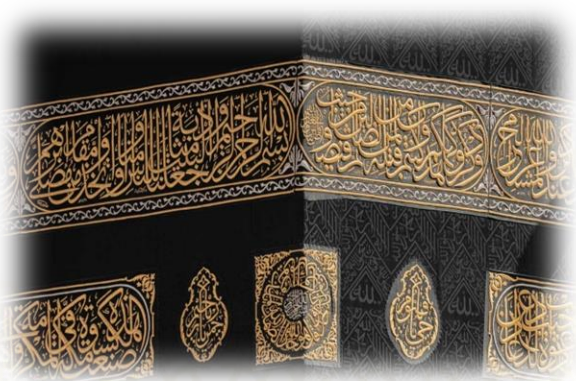
Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ then called the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ and told them to teach their brother matters of religion, read the Qur’ān to him and release his captive. As soon as this was said, the captive, his son Wahb, was released.



‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ, then said, ‘O Messenger of Allāh, I had made a lot of effort to put out the light of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and those people who had accepted Allāh’s religion, I caused them all sorts of problems. Now give me permission, that I can go to Makkah and invite people towards Allāh and Islām. Maybe Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will guide them and I can pester the enemies of Allāh in the way I used to pester the friends of Allāh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ وَتَعَالَى’. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ gave him permission.

‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ then left Madīnah. Meanwhile Ṣafwān was going around telling people in Makkah that in a few days I will give you such good news that you will forget the grief of Badr. He kept on enquiring about ‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ until he found out that ‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had accepted Islām.

Upon hearing this news, Ṣafwān became very angry and made an oath that he would never talk to ‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ or do any service for him ever again.



‘Umayr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reached Makkah and got busy in inviting people towards Islām. Many people accepted Islām due to him and he caused many problems for those who were opposed to Islām.

Summary

The battle of Badr had been won by the Muslims. Seventy of the Quraysh had perished in the battle and a further seventy had been taken captive. Among the captives were many prominent members of the Quraysh and also members of the family of Rasūlullāh ﷺ including ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ, his uncle and Abū al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ who was his son in law, married to Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا.

As per his normal habit, Rasūlullāh ﷺ spent three days in Badr after the victory and then proceeded to Madīnah. He stopped at the well of Qalīb where the leaders of the Quraysh had been thrown and addressed them, name by name.

News of the Muslim victory reached Madīnah at the same time as Ruqayyah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا, the daughter of Rasūlullāh ﷺ was getting buried. Her husband ‘Uthmān رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ had been given permission by Rasūlullāh ﷺ to remain in Madīnah to look after his wife so he was not present at the battle. However all those who had been ordered to remain behind by Rasūlullāh ﷺ were counted as those who had been present at Badr.

The spoils of war were shared out amongst the Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ as well as the captives. Rasūlullāh ﷺ had given them instructions to take good care of the captives. The

Companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ would feed the captives even before they used to eat themselves.

It was decided that the captives would be ransomed, and the highest ransom was set for ‘Abbās رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ, even though he had professed his Islām.

The captives who were poor and could not afford the ransom were freed. The captives who were literate were freed on the condition of teaching the Muslim children how to read and write.

If any of the people who had come from Makkah to ransom their relative embraced Islām, their captive was also freed. The Quraysh had decided that no one should go and pay the ransom however some of the Quraysh started to make their way to Madīnah and free their captives.

Abū Lahab, the uncle of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and staunch enemy of Islām, was not present at Badr. A week after news of the defeat reached Makkah, he died from pustules. His body was put against a wall and covered in stones.

Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا sent the ransom to free her husband, Abū al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. Amongst the ransom was the necklace she had been given by her mother Khadījah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. Upon seeing this necklace, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ returned the ransom and freed Abū al-Āṣ

ﷺ on the condition that he send his daughter Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا to Makkah. He returned to Makkah and kept his promise.

Zaynab رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was sent with Kinānah, the brother of Abū al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. The Quraysh did not like the fact that she had left in broad daylight so pursued her. When they caught up with her, they frightened her causing her to lose the child she was carrying. The Quraysh agreed to let her go if she came back to Makkah and then left after a few days.

In this manner, she arrived in Madinah, one month after the Battle of Badr. Abū al-Āṣ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ eventually became Muslim before the conquest of Makkah.



Sīrah of Muḥammad ﷺ
Part 15 – The Captives of Badr

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